

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently amended) An illumination apparatus for illuminating a person or object, said illumination apparatus comprising:

    a light emitting diode having a dielectric casing;  
    a solid, flexible rod having an elongated length dimension terminated by a first end and a second end, said flexible rod being made of a material, said material having sufficient clarity and being sufficiently dispersive of light such that light entering one of said ends is transmitted along said elongated length dimension and radiates from said rod in substantially all directions along a substantial portion of said length of said rod;

    said first end of said rod embedded in said dielectric casing; and  
    an attachment mechanism connected to said rod for stably connecting said rod to said person or object; and

an electronics container housing said light emitting diode, a battery, and switch, wherein said container includes an anchoring mechanism for anchoring said second end of said flexible rod to form a loop.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim [[2]] 1 wherein said attaching mechanism is incorporated into said container.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim [[4]] 1 wherein said anchoring mechanism comprises an end cap capping said second end and a slot in said container large enough to receive said rod but too small to pass said end cap.

6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1 and further comprising an end cap capping one end of said flexible rod.

7. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said ~~rod is made of material is a thermoplastic material.~~

Claims 8 and 9 (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) An illumination apparatus comprising:  
a flexible, light transmitting rod having a first end; ~~and~~  
a light source located to illuminate said first end of said rod, said light source comprising: a light emitting diode (LED) comprising a semiconductor chip embedded in a dielectric casing, and a pair of electrical leads attached to said semiconductor chip; and a battery; wherein said electrical leads directly contact said battery;

an electronics container for containing said light source, said container having a base and a cap for covering said base; and

a cam element located on said cap such that said cam element presses one of said electrical leads into electrical contact with said battery when said cap is rotated with respect to said base.

Claims 11 and 12 (Canceled)